



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 14 January 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Pipeline & Gas Journal reports industry experts have noted the natural gas industry is having serious and unexpected trouble battling the fast decline of the reserve base, and the time may finally have come for liquefied natural gas to acquire a significant share of the energy sector. (See item [4](#))
- ZDNet reports anti-virus experts are warning about a mass-mailing worm, code-named W32/Sobig-A, which was discovered late last week and spread rapidly over the weekend. (See item [25](#))
- The New York Times reports Faysal Galab, one of six men accused of belonging to a terrorist cell in western New York, pleaded guilty yesterday to attending a training camp in April 2001 run by al Qaeda in Afghanistan, and to contributing money, goods and services to the terrorist group. (See item [28](#))

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 13, Associated Press* — Nineteen anti-nuclear protesters used ropes, ladders and wire-cutters to break into the central control building of a nuclear power station in eastern England on Monday, the environmental group Greenpeace said. Suffolk Police said there was "an incident" at the Sizewell B plant but would not give details. Greenpeace, which campaigns for an end to nuclear energy, said it staged the break-in to expose poor security at the Sizewell B plant and other nuclear facilities. "It is a terrifying thought that if we

can do this then anyone can," said Rob Gueterbock, one of the protesters occupying the plant's roof.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3566564

2. *January 13, Reuters* — **Most of Chile's central region, including the capital Santiago, was hit by a power outage on Monday, though the causes were not immediately known, an electricity industry association said.** The blackout, which lasted 15 minutes, hit the country's main transmission system (SIC), which supplies electricity for 90 percent of Chile's population. Electrical service is returning gradually as emergency generators go into operation as well as those available in other regions," said German Henriquez, operating director of CDEC-SIC, a nongovernmental body that coordinates the flow of electricity between generators and the transmission system.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3566404

3. *January 11, The Charlotte Observer* — **Nuclear plant licenses likely to be renewed. Federal regulators appear ready to extend the operating licenses of Duke Power's two Charlotte, NC-area nuclear plants without evaluating what damage terrorists could inflict on them. An 801-page safety evaluation of the Catawba and McGuire plants, released this week, leaves few issues that could block the 20-year license extensions.** Since the Sept. 11 attacks, nuclear friends and foes have debated the vulnerability of the nation's 104 nuclear-power reactors. Four are within 20 miles of Charlotte. **But members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ruled last month that studies of potential terrorist attacks on the Catawba and McGuire plants aren't warranted. The NRC said terrorist threats apply to all nuclear facilities.** The commission said it is reviewing the potential effects of attacks, and its security rules and procedures. Plant security has been increased and further changes are likely, it said. **License renewal narrowly focuses on the effects of age on nuclear plants.** And, terrorism, the commission and Duke say, isn't relevant to aging. The NRC is expected to decide by year's end whether to extend the plants' licenses. If granted, both could operate into the early 2040s. **The commission made similar rulings last month for three other nuclear facilities awaiting license decisions. Among them is a proposed S.C. plant that would make a new plutonium-blend fuel for Catawba and McGuire.** Two anti-nuclear groups who sought to inject terrorism into the licensing proceedings derided the NRC ruling. The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, which challenged the license extensions, said it and other critics may appeal the NRC rulings in federal court. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service is also fighting the relicensing. "This is ripe for challenge," said Blue Ridge executive director Janet Zeller. "They didn't actually take realistic terrorist potential into account. It's like they set it aside."

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3562025

4. *January 11, Pipeline & Gas Journal* — **LNG ready to grab piece of supply pie.** A panel of experts representing EOG Resources (a producer formerly known as Enron Oil & Gas), El Paso Corporation, and Halliburton, noted at the RBC Capital Markets North American Energy Conference held in Houston last month that the industry is having serious and unexpected trouble battling the fast decline of the natural gas reserve base. **With demand for natural gas, primarily for power generation, steadily on the increase, energy executives agree that the time may finally have come for liquefied natural gas (LNG) to grab a significant share of the energy supply picture.** Kyle Sawyer, vice president for El Paso Corporation said LNG

now compromises about 14 Bcf/d (billion cubic feet per day) of the world's natural gas supply and its market share is showing impressive growth when compared to pipeline development. In fact, he said global demand for LNG is rising 6–7% annually. **In the U.S., demand for LNG is seen rising up to 10% annually as traditional supply sources become stressed at meeting North American demand, he said. There are 60 new LNG vessels under contract to be built by 2006 according to Sawyer.** Meanwhile, in a related development, ChevronTexaco announced on Dec. 2 that it is now planning to build an LNG terminal designed to take the liquid off ships some 60 miles off the coast of Louisiana. The site would be known as Port Pelican and would then be used to feed the natural gas into the company's offshore natural gas pipeline system. If significant new development comes on line in North America, LNG could amount to between 2 or 3 Bcf/d by 2011. It's more likely that at least 4.5 Bcf/d will be required, but it reserve additions slow down and a major Alaskan gas pipeline is canceled or delayed, there could be a need for up to 10 Bcf/d of LNG, according to Hal Kvisle, president and CEO of TransCanada Pipeline Co. **In any case, it is inevitable that North America will move much more toward LNG over the next 20 to 30 years, he said. One estimate is that as much as 50% of North American gas could come in as LNG by then. In comparison the U.S. market for LNG was only 0.2 MMcf/d in 1990.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/gasnews/gn_article.cfm?id=3_563536

5. *January 11, Associated Press* — **Russia's nuclear energy minister suggested Saturday that Moscow build a nuclear power station in North Korea to help diffuse the current crisis between Pyongyang and Washington.** Nuclear Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev said Russia has the technical capacity to build such a power plant in North Korea, according to the ITAR–Tass news agency. Rumyantsev made similar comments on Friday, saying Russia could assist North Korea with its nuclear energy program to help bring the country back into the framework of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. North Korea withdrew from the treaty Friday. On Saturday, Rumyantsev repeated Russia's condemnation of the step, calling the treaty “a basis for the development of peaceful atomic energy,” ITAR–Tass said. North Korea last month unfroze its nuclear programs after Washington halted oil deliveries that were part of a 1994 deal. The embargo was put in place after North Korea admitted to covertly developing nuclear weapons in violation of that agreement. The 1994 pact also called for the construction of nuclear power plants by a consortium made up of the United States, Japan and South Korea. Rumyantsev expressed regret that Russia was not part of that effort. “Russia was not invited to join that project,” he was quoted as saying.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3566617

6. *January 10, East Bay Business News* — **World LNG march could bypass Bay Area.** Across America and around the world, liquefied natural gas (LNG) is fueling more power plants, industrial operations and commercial vehicles than ever before. **To bring LNG to California from Asia, the world's energy giants are moving to build three new terminals, including one on Vallejo's Mare Island that would be the nation's biggest. Five more are slated for Baja California to serve Mexico and the United States.** “More and more natural gas is being used because it's the cleanest hydrocarbon. LNG is going to supply a bigger portion of the market,” said John Hritcko Jr., vice president of Houston–based Shell NA, LNG Inc. The parent company, Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Cos., is the world's leading LNG producer and shipper. **LNG is the only practical way to move huge quantities of gas, much of it extracted from deep–water wells in the Pacific Ocean, thousands of miles to European and Asian –**

and increasingly North American – customers. In the United States, LNG will be the fastest-growing supply of natural gas, with imports rising from 0.2 percent of the nation's supply this year to 11 percent by 2025, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's 2003 world forecast. If the complex was built in Vallejo, or anywhere in Northern California, it would help stabilize natural gas and electricity prices that have fluctuated wildly over the past five years. But even in the midst of an unresolved power crisis in which natural gas supplies are critical to building new plants, community opposition may kill the Vallejo project and Northern California's chances for an LNG terminal. **Opponents cite a laundry list of potential problems, including risk of an earthquake-induced rupture and fire. They also worry about air pollution and the plant's appearance and question the direct economic benefit to the city and its 120,000 residents.** LNG, typically 95 percent methane, is liquefied at minus 260 degrees, then shipped by tanker to terminals where it is "regasified" by heating and pumped into pipelines for distribution. LNG occupies one-six-hundredth of the volume of natural gas. LNG is already in wide use in areas of the world where the distance from supply – more than 2,200 miles on land or 700 miles offshore – make it impractical or impossible to move the gas by pipeline.

Source: <http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2003/01/13/story1.html>

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Chemical Sector

7. *January 13, Reuters* — **Credit risk for N. American chemical sector. A report, "Credit Risk Remains for North American Chemical Sector; Economic, Geopolitical Concerns Cited,"** written by Standard & Poor's Web-based credit research and analysis system asserts that the likely sustained increase in oil and natural gas costs caused by uncertainty in Iraq and Venezuela could have a large negative effect on raw material costs, further challenging economic growth in the U.S. and adding new pressures to U.S. chemical company margins. As a result, credit quality in the U.S. chemicals sector is unlikely to stabilize until strong product demand has been achieved as a function of sustained economic growth. Recent increases in oil and natural gas prices have renewed concerns related to higher feedstock costs and the possibility of margin pressure and higher energy costs for the chemicals industry. Elevated natural gas and oil prices, due in part to the confluence of turmoil in Venezuela (the fourth-largest supplier of oil to the U.S.) and the potential for a conflict with Iraq, could dampen opportunities for margin expansion despite recent pricing improvements. The U.S. petrochemical sector is heavily dependent on natural gas derivatives for feedstocks and power generation. **"Credit risk remains elevated despite modestly improving business trends and the belief that industry fundamentals support a cyclical recovery,"** said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Kyle Loughlin. **"This reflects many issuers' heightened sensitivity to downgrades after several years of underperformance and the threat of event risks due to political, end-market, or economic uncertainties."** The full report, "Credit Risk Remains for North American Chemical Sector; Economic, Geopolitical Concerns Cited," is available on RatingsDirect, Standard & Poor's Web-based credit research and analysis system. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/financeNewsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=OCDK2KJQGFNK2CRBAE0CFFA?type=bondsNews/a>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *January 13, Inside the Navy* — **Card has Pentagon accelerate plan to replace Bush's helicopters.** At the urging of White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, the Pentagon is accelerating efforts to replace the aging Marine Corps helicopters that transport President Bush while at home and abroad. “Marine One” is the call sign used whenever the elite helicopter squadron HMX-1 transports the president, frequently in a Sikorsky-made VH-3D Sea King. But these olive and ivory airframes are getting old. And given the post-Sept. 11 security environment, Card wants a replacement aircraft called VXX to be developed years sooner than previously expected, according to a missive he sent Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Nov. 26, 2002. **“According to my understanding the [VH-3D] aircraft is scheduled for retirement no later than 2014, with the identification process for its replacement to commence later this year,” Card writes. “In the interim, I am concerned about identified VH-3D maintenance and performance deficiencies that directly impact the ability to provide requisite level of support to the president. We should aim for an acceleration of that timeline, given the obvious imperatives associated with travel for the president.” “I believe a realistic and achievable goal should be to have operational capability for the replacement aircraft by 2007 and look forward to your support and cooperation in achieving that goal,” Card writes. The Pentagon acknowledged the urgency of Card's request, but defense officials believe 2010 is the earliest a replacement could be fielded, said the source.** No design has been selected for the replacement aircraft, but it is likely to be based on an existing, proven design.

Source: <http://ebird.dtic.mil/Jan2003/s20030113145995.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

9. *January 13, Transport Topics* — **FMCSA to visit hazmat carriers. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCA)said it will revisit approximately 1,500 hazardous material carriers, beginning this spring, to advise them to take certain security steps to prevent the threat of turning a cargo into a weapon of mass destruction, said William A. Quade, chief of the agency's hazardous materials division.** The visits will concentrate on carriers who handle munitions and certain other chemicals, said Quade. FMCSA visited some 30,000 carriers after the 9/11 attacks and the follow-up visit in the next several months is anticipated to coincide with new government security rules affecting hazmat carriers. Quade said the government is looking to see what progress has been made in advance of any future rules.

Source: <http://www.ttnews.com/members/topNews/0009780.html>

10. *January 13, Associated Press* — **British airports showing signs of recovery from post–Sept. 11 downturn.** Passenger traffic at British airports jumped 15.3 percent during the Christmas and New Year holidays compared with the same period a year earlier, the owner of Britain's busiest airports said Monday. **BAA PLC said passenger numbers at its seven airports, which include London's Heathrow and Gatwick, totaled 9.4 million in December, 1.2 million more than the same month the previous year, when air traffic was still suffering after the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=storyp_won_po/eu_gen_britain_airports_1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

11. *January 12, Billings Gazette* — **Shots for bison year away.** Late this month, Wayne Brewster, deputy director of Yellowstone's Center for Resources, will gather with other scientists in Colorado to discuss progress on the plan to shoot young bison with **Brucellosis vaccine–laden biological bullets.** Brucellosis has long been a deadly disease among the free–ranging herds of Yellowstone bison. The disease, which can cause bison and domestic cattle to abort their fetuses, also can result in decreased milk production, weight loss, infertility, and lameness. More than half a century ago the federal government began a program aimed at helping the nation's livestock industry by eradicating bacteria in the genus *Brucella*. **By 2002, 48 states, including all three that border Yellowstone, were declared free of brucellosis.** Total livestock industry losses related to brucellosis were estimated at below \$1 million a year, down from more than \$400 million a year in the early 1950s. **The number of infected herds nationwide had dropped from 124,000 in 1956 to 700 in 1992 and finally six in the year 2000.** When the focus was taken off private cattle herds, it landed on Yellowstone National Park. **The park's bison and elk are the nation's only known wildlife populations carrying brucellosis, and are among the last known concentrations of the disease in the United States.** By Brewster's estimate, perhaps 15 percent or 20 percent of the park's bison are infected with the disease, and neighboring ranchers have been worried that the wild animals might infect domestic livestock. While no known cases of bison–to–cattle infections have been documented in the wild, bison were found to be capable of infecting cattle in controlled clinical trials.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=12003/01/12/build/wyoming/a-bison.inc>

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Food Sector

12.

January 12, St. Louis Post–Dispatch — Schnucks is first in the area to offer irradiated meat. Schnucks today becomes the first supermarket chain in the St. Louis, Missouri area to sell beef treated with a technology that uses a high–energy ray to kill harmful bacteria. Proponents of the technology, known as irradiation, say it will help protect consumers from E. coli, salmonella, listeria and other pathogens that cause 5,000 deaths and millions of infections in the United States every year. The Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Agriculture Department recently approved the use of irradiation on poultry and meats. Schnucks will sell irradiated fresh ground beef and frozen beef patties, which both cost about 10 to 20 cents more per pound than conventional beef.

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/News/D2AC57AAF924996186256CAD00192F71?OpenDocuments+is+first+in+the+area+to+offer+irradiated+meat>

13. *January 11, Denver Post* — **USDA aims to beef up scrutiny.** Federal meat inspectors with better training might have averted last summer's massive ConAgra beef recall, the nation's top food–safety official acknowledges. **Had inspectors known how to piece together dozens of E. coli findings at the Greeley slaughterhouse in Colorado, they could have seen that a bigger problem was building and taken action, said Elsa Murano.** Murano is the food–safety division chief in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **As a result, the USDA is allocating \$5 million in its upcoming budget to train 7,600 inspectors to look beyond individual contamination problems and detect lurking threats. "The sooner our inspectors become aware of a potential for a problem at a plant, the sooner that they can connect the dots, the sooner we can do something that will possibly prevent a recall," Murano said.** Tests by workers at the former ConAgra slaughterhouse, now known as Swift & Co., found potentially lethal E. coli in beef 34 times in the months leading up to the July recall. Company officials told the USDA about their findings as they happened. But instead of linking the 34 cases, inspectors were trained to deal with each E. coli finding separately, Murano said. They ensured that the contaminated meat wasn't turned into hamburger but didn't investigate further. Source: <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E33%257E1104776%257E00.html>

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Water Sector

14. *January 13, icCoventry (UK)* — **Water bosses: 'no comment' on terror threat.** Water executives have declined to confirm reports that they have been asked to fence off one of Scotland's largest reservoirs because of terrorist fears. Scottish Water says it is for the Home Office to decide whether to erect 3 foot high fences around Mugdock Reservoir in Milngavie, near Glasgow, to prevent the possibility of water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people being poisoned. The reservoir was at the centre of a health scare last summer when 150,000 people in north Glasgow and Clydebank had to boil their water after increased levels of cryptosporidium bacteria were detected in the supply. The source of the contamination was later found to be animal slurry from neighbouring fields. **A report in the Herald newspaper today claimed the security organization MI5 had ordered that the reservoir be fenced off to prevent it being used as a terrorist target.** A spokesman for Scottish Water said: "It's a matter of national security and we can't discuss that. That's for the

Home Office to decide. "If the Home Office expresses to us that things have to be implemented we will have to comply with that, but we can't comment on the report."

Source: <http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200nationalnews/page.cfm?objectid=12527171id=50003>

15. *January 13, Water Tech Online* — **EPA convenes water experts to discuss infrastructure financing.** U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) Administrator Christine Whitman is convening a group of business, government, and other experts to exchange information and views on sustainable management and financing of the nation's water infrastructure. **The forum will focus on the challenges faced by water suppliers and wastewater managers in a time of many competing demands on public resources and growing needs for infrastructure replacement, improvement, expansion, and security, the agency said.** The EPA has invited corporate executives with experience in water infrastructure challenges, state officials who oversee safe drinking water programs, elected and appointed officials on the front line in delivering clean and safe water, international experts with insights into how other nations are addressing water sustainability, private sector investors, experts in finance and experts from academia, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Source: <http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4font>
16. *January 11, Associated Press* — **California county sues over water cutbacks. The water board for California's Imperial county filed a lawsuit against Interior Secretary Gale Norton to stop her from cutting the region's massive supply of Colorado River water.** The lawsuit was filed Friday in U.S. District Court in San Diego. Norton imposed water cuts when California missed a Dec. 31 deadline to sign an agreement aimed at reducing the state's historic overuse of the Colorado River. For years, California has been allowed to use more than its share of river water because six other Western states that share the Colorado didn't use their full allotments. But rapid growth in the other states and a severe drought prompted the Interior Department to crack down. **The Imperial Irrigation District voted last month to reject a proposal to sell 200,000 acre-feet of its water to San Diego, part of a larger Colorado River agreement involving all six states. Norton responded by cutting the Imperial Irrigation District's share of Colorado River water by 11 percent and ordering much of that shipped to the Metropolitan Water District, the agency that serves 17 million customers in Los Angeles and San Diego.** Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=storyp_on_go_ca_st_pe/california_water_2

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Public Health Sector

17. *January 13, Time Europe Magazine* — **A drug for all bugs.** Imagine this scenario: terrorists release an airborne, antibiotic-resistant strain of anthrax in a major European capital. Without vaccines or antitoxins to reduce fatalities, the public is largely unprotected. The government quickly dispenses a new nasal spray that puts people's immune systems into overdrive, protecting them not only against anthrax but a whole range of pathogens, including many of the deadly bioterrorist agents that governments believe are most likely to be used. **The U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and Britain's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down are doing just that. They say that a protective**

nasal spray like the one described above could be a few years away. A U.S. firm working with both military agencies, says preclinical data show that its CpG drug protects mice against anthrax, certain strains of smallpox, the Ebola virus and other potential bioterror agents. Normally the body's immune cells detect pathogens, triggering protective measures after an infection takes hold. CpG mimics immune cells, causing the body to think it is infected before it actually is. The body's immune system is then at full strength when an infection is introduced.

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/europe/magazine/article/0,13005,901030120-407296,00.html>

18. *January 13, Evening Mail (UK)* — **Is this the end of MRSA?. Scientists from Birmingham have made medical history by creating what could be the first ever vaccine against hospital superbug Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).** Vaccine Research International has secured a £1.6 million grant to trial the new drug on 48 people over the next two years. **Brainchild behind the vaccine, Dr Afshan Ahmad said: "Tests on a limited number of animals indicate that it may protect human beings against MRSA." "There are only two remaining antibiotics resistant to MRSA, so it is crucial we get this trialled and tested as soon as possible added Ahmed."** Professor Gordon Skinner, who works alongside Dr Ahmad at Vaccine Research International in Moseley, added: "Dr Ahmad discovered that chloroform can kill bacteria which leads to MRSA and it also can help develop preventative antibodies. "If the trials have positive results, we will get the vaccine licensed all over the world."

Source: <http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/page.cfm?objectid=1252787&id=50002>

19. *January 13, Los Angeles Times* — **Supply of radiation pills to be tripled. State health officials have decided to more than triple the number of potassium iodide pills they distribute in communities around California's two nuclear power plants.** The decision comes after health experts and residents near the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon nuclear generation stations expressed concern that there might not be enough of the medication for the people who live, work, attend school, and vacation in those areas. **The pills could reduce the effects of radiation poisoning after an accidental radiation release or act of terrorism. At least 400,000 of the 1.4 million pills will be given to residents within a 10-mile radius of the plants, which are in Orange County and San Luis Obispo County. California officials say they will also make pills available to worried residents who live outside the zones and to people who pass through the areas.** Potassium iodide is a form of salt that protects against one type of radioactive isotope: that of iodine. The pills help block the absorption of radioactive iodine by the thyroid, reducing the chance of thyroid cancer, the most common ailment suffered after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion in Ukraine. **A few months after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission offered the pills to more than 4 million people who live within the 10-mile evacuation zones of nuclear power plants across the nation.** California was one of the states that signed up for a supply and received 400,000 doses in the summer.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-pills13jan13.story>

20. *January 12, New York Times* — **A deadly weapon for beginners. Experts see ricin as a growing terrorism threat because the toxin is easy to make and stockpile, if hard to use**

for mass destruction. It is often, experts say, the choice of neophytes eager for chemical and biological mayhem. Though the British authorities found small amounts of ricin in an apartment, some experts fear there is a large cache and detectives are now hunting for other suspects. **Ricin is limited as a weapon of mass destruction.** While no treatment or vaccine can counter its deadly effects, it is 1,000 times less poisonous than botulinum toxin. **A solid, it is harder to disseminate than a liquid, limiting its spread through the air. And unlike many nerve agents, which tend to be simple chemicals, it is a large protein the skin has difficulty absorbing. The oral route is also hard. Ricin can be inhaled, scientists say, but it must be administered as a fine powder, like talc, and milling it safely takes skill.** In October 1995, United Nations inspectors searching Iraq for weapons of mass destruction reported evidence of ricin work. Baghdad, they said, had made gallons of concentrate and test fired it in artillery shells. In 1997, the inspectors found new evidence of weapon production. "It was a surprise inspection," recalled Terence T. Taylor, the inspector who made the discovery. "We caught them with a full report of the development work." **After the inspectors left Iraq, in 1998, American and British forces bombed Baghdad's castor plant. But in a September report, the British government charged that Baghdad had rebuilt its castor plant at Al Fallujah and "can produce" ricin as a weapon.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/12/weekinreview/12BROA.html>

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Government Sector

21. *January 09, Defense News* — **House armed services panel shifts structure to address new threats.** The U.S. House Armed Services Committee is reorganizing its subcommittee structure to better focus on new military threats and old military shortages, the committee's new chairman, Rep. Duncan Hunter, said Jan. 9. **The committee is creating six subcommittees in place of the five it had during the last session of Congress. Among the new batch is a subcommittee to focus on terrorism and new threats. Eliminated are a subcommittee that oversaw research and development and one that monitored procurement.** The new arrangement is intended to align the Armed Services Committee more closely with the military's mission areas, Hunter, R-Calif., said in announcing the changes. The new structure will enable the committee to place greater emphasis on unconventional threats and on improving the military's capabilities, he said. **The new subcommittees will be:** • Tactical Air and Land Forces, chaired by Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa. It will be responsible for Army and Air Force procurement, except for strategic weapons, lift, special operations and information technology. The subcommittee also will oversee Navy and Marine Corps aviation, National Guard and reserve modernization and ammunition programs. • Readiness, headed by Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo. The subcommittee will oversee readiness, maintenance and logistics. It also will take on military construction, housing and base closures. • **Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, to be headed by Rep. Jim Saxon, R-N.J. It will oversee counterterrorism, counterproliferation, special operations forces, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, information technology policy, force protection and intelligence support.** • Total Force, to be chaired by Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y. This subcommittee will focus on personnel policy, reserve force integration and employment, health care and education. • Strategic Forces, to be led by Rep. Terry Everett, R-Ala. It will be responsible for strategic forces, except deep strike, space programs, ballistic missile defense

and Energy Department national security programs. • Projection Forces, to be headed by Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md. It will oversee the Navy and Marine Corps, deep-strike bombers, strategic lift and naval reserve equipment.

Source: http://www.defensenews.com/pgt.php?htd=i_story_1481936.htmlorlwide

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *January 13, Reuters* — **Face recognition cameras aid local law enforcement.** Police in Virginia Beach, VA, recently began operating video surveillance cameras with face recognition technology to aid local law enforcement activities. Virginia Beach, along with Tampa, FL, is one of only two cities in the United States to acquire the technology, which cost it \$197,000. The system went live last September. "Before we switched it on, we went through an extensive public education process with hearings and the involvement of citizen groups and minority groups, who helped write the policies we are using," said deputy police chief Greg Mullen. As a result, **the cameras may only be used for two narrowly defined purposes: to catch some 1,500 people wanted by the city on outstanding felony warrant, and to find runaway children or missing persons.** All the images picked up by the cameras are immediately deleted from the system if there is no match. A citizens' auditing committee has the right to perform unannounced spot checks on police headquarters to make sure the technology is not being misused. Virginia Beach has had video surveillance cameras watching over its beachfront area since 1993. Three of the city's 13 cameras are linked full-time to the face recognition system, though the others can be activated as needed. The database of wanted people is updated every day. **Mullen envisions that eventually the system will be linked to the databases of other city, state and federal law enforcement agencies to track criminals and suspected terrorists.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=UUSD3ALEF1OTKCRBAEOCFFA?type=technologyNews/a>

23. *January 13, Washington Post* — **Antiwar activists from across U.S. preparing for weekend of protests.** Saturday's rally and march follow an October protest that drew about 100,000, a turnout organizers and police said was the largest antiwar demonstration in the nation's capital since the protests against the Vietnam War. And like the October protest, this action has drawn counter-demonstrators who vow a loud but peaceful rally. **D.C. Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey said he "wouldn't be surprised" if the turnout in Washington matched that in October. He said that his department will be ready for that size crowd but that he does not expect disruptions. Previous ANSWER protests -- including a pro-Palestinian rally in April that attracted about 75,000 -- have been relatively free of incidents. "We don't anticipate any problems," Ramsey said. "It's been a peaceful group to date."** The rally is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on the Mall near Third Street and Constitution Avenue NW just beyond the west front of the Capitol.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47595-2003Jan12.ht ml>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *January 13, Government Computer News* — **Possible war, terrorist threats shape Defense IT agenda. The prospect of war with Iraq is defining the Defense Department's 2003 technology initiatives.** U.S. soldiers on the front lines are preparing to use the latest technologies—including wireless communications and high-end cryptography tools—being tested and deployed by DOD, senior department officials said. In the coming months, **DOD's technical focus will be squarely on security, boosting projects to develop antiterrorism tools, creating a DOD-wide public-key infrastructure (PKI), expanding IT training, and beginning biometric pilots.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/22_1/dod/20843-1.html

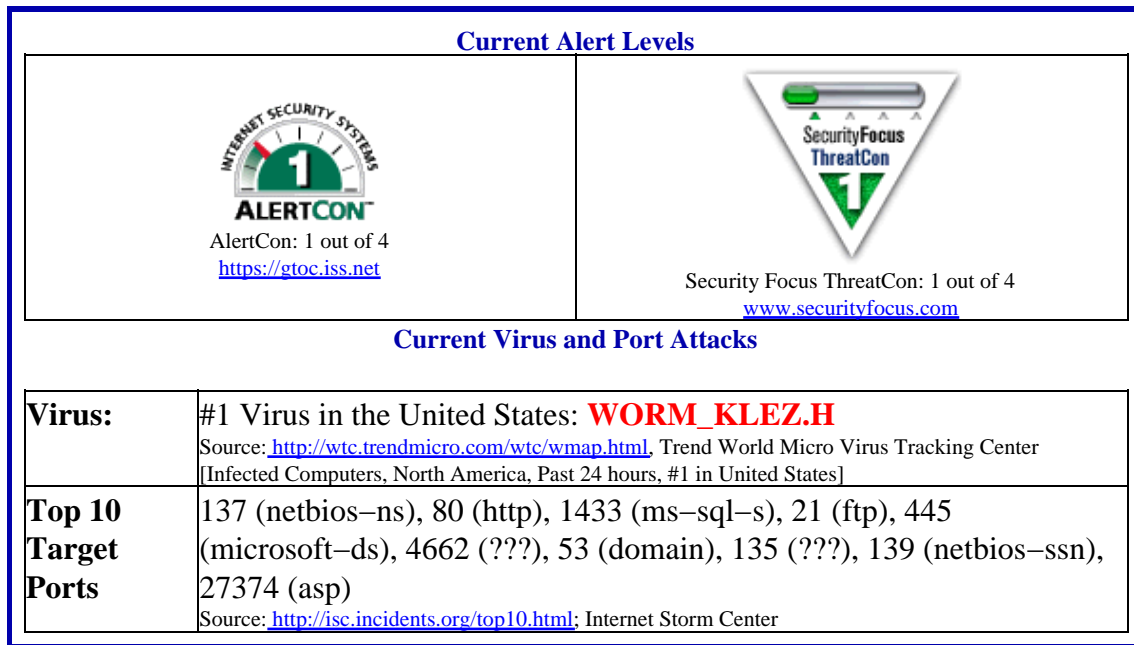
25. *January 13, ZDNet* — **Virus alert: W32/Sobig-A.** Anti-virus experts are warning of a new virus, code-named W32/Sobig-A, which was discovered late last week and spread rapidly over the weekend. **Sobig is a mass-mailing worm incorporating its own SMTP engine,** according to antivirus companies. **It arrives from the e-mail address "big@boss.com" and bears a subject line such as "Re: here is that sample", "Re: Movies", "Re: Document" or "Re: Sample".** The e-mail contains an attachment called **"Document003.pif", "Sample.pif", "Untitled1.pif" or "Movie_0074.pif".** It affects the Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP platforms. **When the attachment is clicked on, it runs a program that searches for files containing e-mail addresses and uses these to send infected e-mails. It also connects to a Web site and downloads a text file containing another Web address, from which it attempts to download and run another program.** MessageLabs speculated that this program was a backdoor trojan horse, which could allow a hacker to take control of the user's PC. **If there is a local-area network connection, Sobig attempts to copy itself onto shared network folders.** CERT/CC has received over one hundred reports of this worm. Anti-virus software companies Sophos, Symantec and McAfee have published instructions on their websites for blocking and removing the worm.

Source: <http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105-980338.html>

26. *January 12, CNN* — **U.S. e-mail attack targets key Iraqis. U.S. military and other U.S. government agencies have begun a surreptitious e-mail campaign inside Iraq in an effort to get some Iraqis to defy President Saddam Hussein.** Thousands of e-mail messages have been sent out since Thursday. The disguised e-mails, being **sent to key Iraqi leaders, include instructions to the e-mail recipients to contact the United Nations in Iraq if they want to defect.** If they do not, the messages warn, the United States will go to war against them. Senior military sources told CNN **this was the first time the military had engaged in this type of "information warfare campaign."** The U.S. military and intelligence officials were apparently hoping that the Iraqis do not realize where the e-mails are coming from. One official tells CNN the Pentagon wanted "to preserve this capability as long as possible," but once the e-mail campaign was discovered it would be acknowledged publicly. The official also says **the United States acknowledges that Iraq may have already shut off some Internet gateways to prevent the e-mails from getting through.** He said these same types of messages will now be sent by radio broadcast in the days ahead from U.S. airborne and ground platforms.

Source: <http://europe.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/01/11/sproject.irq.email>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

27. *January 13, Associated Press* — **Six more people in custody over ricin scare. British police have arrested six more people in connection with the discovery of the highly toxic poison ricin in London, news reports said Monday.** Sky News and the British Broadcasting Corp. said five men and a woman were arrested Sunday in Bournemouth on England's south coast. **London's Metropolitan Police said only that five men and a woman had been detained in Bournemouth in connection with "an ongoing investigation."** A spokesman told Associated Press that local police and specialist officers from London were searching premises in the Bournemouth area. The six people arrested were in custody in Bournemouth, he said.
Source: <http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/front/RTGAM/20030113/wrici0113/Front/homeBN/breakingnews>
28. *January 11, New York Times* — **Accused member of terror cell near Buffalo agrees to guilty plea.** One of six men accused of belonging to a terrorist cell in western New York pleaded guilty yesterday to attending a training camp in April 2001 run by al Qaeda in Afghanistan. He also pleaded guilty to contributing money, goods and services to the terrorist group. The defendant, Faysal Galab, 26, agreed to cooperate with federal and state prosecutors and United States military officials in terrorism investigations, in exchange for a lesser sentence, prosecutors said. Mr. Galab and five other men from the Yemeni community in Lackawanna, N.Y., a suburb of Buffalo, were indicted in October and charged with providing support to al Qaeda. **Galab pleaded guilty yesterday to lesser violations under a different law. Until now, only two of the men, Sahim A. Alwan, 30, and Mukhtar al–Bakri, have told prosecutors that they attended the terrorist training camp. Galab did not plead guilty to planning terrorist attacks, and his lawyer, Joseph M. LaTona, said Galab was not a terrorist or a member of Al Qaeda. Federal prosecutors have said that the six men**

constituted a terrorist cell and were awaiting orders to carry out an attack. After negotiations that lasted most of the day, Mr. Galab entered his plea before Judge William M. Skretny in Federal District Court in Buffalo.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/11/nyregion/11BUFF.html>

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[NIPC Alerts](#) – Alerts address major threat or incident information addressing imminent or in-progress attacks targeting specific national networks or critical infrastructures.

[NIPC Information Bulletins](#) – Information Bulletins communicate issues that pertain to the critical national infrastructure and are for informational purposes only.

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